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A Succinct Narrative

Of the Bloody Murder of Sir EDMONDBURY GODFREY By the PAPISTS, *Octob.* 12. 1678.

With the various and Wonderful Circumstances of the Motives, Manner, Time, Place, Persons, &c. relating to the said Murder, Faithfully collected out of the several respective Depositions given upon Oath before the House of Lords *by Captain* William Bedloe, *and Mr.* Miles Prance, *to the Amazement and Horrour of all* True-Protestants.

Capt. *Bedloe's* Depositions.

Lords Journ. THe *Papists*, because Sir *Edmondbury* seem'd to be an obstacle to Them, and had taken the Information of *Oates* and *Tongue* about the *Plot*, resolv'd and contriv'd to take away his Life.

Ibidem 2. Pursuant to which Design, they hir'd for 4000 *l. Le Phaire*, *Walsh*, *Atkins*, *Pritchard*, the *Deponent*, and some *Jesuits*, to do the Fact.

Ibidem 3. Accordingly, the above-named Persons Trepan'd Sir *Edmundbury* into *Somerset-House* about five a Clock at night, on *Saturday* the 12*th.* of *October*.

Counc. Journ. 4. This Trepan was effected thus; The *Deponent* was told by *Le Phaire*, that *He*, *Walsh* and *Atkins* met Sir *Edmundbury* near the *Kings-Head-Inne* in the *Strand*, and decoy'd him into *Somerset-House*, under pretence of apprehending some *Plotters*.

Lords Journ. 5. When they had him in the upper great Court of *Somerset-House*, They thrust him into a low Room, put a Pistol to him, threatned him if he made a noise; then stifled him between two Pillows; And finding him still alive strangled him with a long *Crevat* in the *Room* where he lay.

Ibidem 6. On the *Monday* following precisely between 9 and 10 a Clock at night, the Body was shewn to the *Deponent* by *Le Phaire*, in the *Room*, or the next to it where the Duke of *Albemarle* lay in State in the upper square Court; There it was by the help of a *Dark Lanthorn* the *Deponent* saw the Body in the presence of *Le Phaire*, *Walsh*, *Atkins*, and Two other Persons.

Mr. *Prance's* Depositions.

1. THe Papists, *because Sir* Edmondbury *seemed an Enemy to the* Queens Servants, *and would not consent to discharge one* Gerald *from Parish-Duties, (as another Justice did) resolv'd and contriv'd to take away his life.* Lords Journ.

2. *Pursuant to which Design, they hired* (for what Reward the Deponent *doth not know*) Hill, Green, Kelly, *the* Deponent, Gerald *and* Berry, *to do the Fact.* Ibidem

3. *Accordingly the above-named Persons Trepan'd Sir* Edmondbury *into* Somerset-house *about* 8 *or* 9 *a Clock at night: But the* Deponent *doth not well remember the Day.* Ibidem

4. *This Trepan was effected thus*; Green *gave the* Deponent *notice that* He *and* Gerald *had left Sir* Edmondbury *in St.* Clements; *And* Hill *decoy'd him down the* Water-gate, *under pretence of parting a Fray between two Fellows quarrelling in the Yard.* Lords Journ.

5. *When they had him near the Rails by the* Queens-Stables, Green *strangled him with a twisted Handkercbief; Then finding him still alive, rung his Neck quite round, and punch'd him with his Knee in the open Yard; Which done, they dragg'd him into Doctor* Godwin's *Lodgings.* Ibidem

6. *On the* Monday *following, precisely between* 9 *and* 10 *a Clock at night, the Body was shewn to the* Deponent *by* Hill, Green, *and* Gerald, *in a Room in the back Square-Court below Stairs next the Garden. There it was by the help of a* Dark-Lanthorn *the* Deponent *saw the Body in the company of the said* Hill, Green, *and* Gerald, *who were only present.* Ibidem

7. On

Lords Journ. 7. On the ſame *Monday* at 9 a Clock at night the dead Body was carry'd out through the *great Gate* by certain *Chair-men* (Retainers to *Somerſet-Houſe*,) whoſe Perſons were unknown to the *Deponent*; Theſe perſons carry'd him in a Chair to the corner of *Clarendon-Houſe*, and from thence convey'd him in a Coach to *Primroſe-Hill*, where they made a Wound in his Body, and laid his Sword by his ſide.

7. *On the next* Wedneſday *after about* 12 *a Clock at night, the dead Body was put into a* Sedan, *and carry'd out by the* Deponent *and* Gerald *into* Covent-Garden, *where* Green *and* Kelly *took him up, and carry'd him to* Long-Acre; *There the* Deponent *and* Gerald *reſumed their Burden, and carry'd him to the* So-hoe; *from thence he was convey'd aſtride on* Horſe-back *before* Hill *into the Fields, where they thruſt his Sword through his Body, and caſt him into a Ditch.* Lords Journ.

A Two-fold Proteſtation of Mr. Miles Prance, *concerning the Murder of Sir* Edmondbury Godfrey.

His Proteſtation made firſt before Capt. *Richardſon* in *Newgate*, and then before the *King* and *Council*, ſoon after his firſt Diſcovery in *December* 1678. Reduced into Form.

His Proteſtation made in Solemn manner, April 14. (82.) *being* Good-Friday, *immediately preceding the Feaſt of* Eaſter, *wherein he received the* Holy Sacrament, *at his Pariſh-Church.*

WHereas by the Suggeſtion of the Devil, Worldly Intereſt, and my own Malice, I Miles Prance *moſt wickedly deviſed an horrid Story of the Murder of Sir* Edmonbury Godfrey, *wherein (being before-hand ſufficiently ſecured both of His Majeſty's Pardon for the pretended Crime, and of Reward for the Diſcovery,) I feigned my ſelf a Party, the better to gain credit to my Damnable Forgery.*

Now I the ſaid Miles Prance, *do with unſpeakable grief (though yet not without a firm belief of Forgiveneſs from Almighty God upon ſincere Repentance) hereby in the preſence of the All-ſeeing and Heart-ſearching God, and of all Holy Angels and Good Men, Solemnly and Sincerely declare, that whatever I depoſed upon Oath, relating either to my own Knowledge and concurrence in the ſaid Murder of Sir* Edmondbury Godfrey, *or to any other Perſon or Circumſtance touching the ſame, is, in the whole, and every part thereof falſe, and the meer groundleſs product of my own Devilliſh Invention.*

For all which my deteſtable wickedneſs as with a repentant heart I crave the mercy of God, ſo do I humbly beg Pardon of the King, and Forgievneſs of thoſe whom by my Helliſh Malice, I have ſo hainouſly and unjuſtly Accuſed.

WHereas ſome bold and Ill Men have ſeveral times by various but different Suggeſtions, and particularly, more openly of late, pretended they are able to Diſprove an Account I have given from my perſonal knowledge of the Murder of Sir *Edmundbury Godfrey*, wherein with unſpeakable grief (though yet not without a firm belief of forgiveneſs from Almighty God upon unfeigned Repentance, as well as the grant of His moſt Gracious Majeſty my Earthly Soveraign's Pardon) I acknowledge my ſelf moſt wickedly drawn in, and concerned.

Now I the ſaid *Miles Prance*, do hereby in the preſence of the All-ſeeing and Heart-ſearching God, and of all Holy Angels and Good Men, Solemnly and Sincerely avow and declare, that whatever I formerly depoſed upon Oath, and ſet forth touching the manner and Circumſtances (as far as the ſame fell within my knowledge) of the ſaid Sir *Edmondbury Godfrey*'s Murder, is moſt punctually and Religiouſly true.

And as to all and every part of this my Solemn Proteſtation, as I do hereby under my hand moſt ſeriouſly aver and avow it, ſo in farther confirmation of the Truth thereof do I reſolve (with Gods Help and Permiſſion) to receive the *Holy Sacrament.*

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